Environmental Planning in the Army Corps of Engineers

elationship of the NEPA to Principles & Guidelines

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1 **Ch 2 Mod**

Relationship of the NEPA to the P&G

- LEARNING OBJECTIVE - Acquire a basic understanding of the:
  - Relationship between the Federal government's guidelines for civil works planning and its policy encouraging productive harmony between man and his environment
  - How these separate approaches are related and
  - A quick look at proposed changes in P&G

NEPA AND THE P&G

- Question: “What must the planner do to meet the requirements of NEPA and P&G?
  - NEPA Background
  - P & G Background
  - Differences and Similarities

PURPOSE of P & G

To establish principles and guidelines for use in formulating and evaluating alternative plans for water and related land resources implementation studies intended to ensure proper and consistent planning by federal agencies in contributing to national economic development (NED) consistent with protecting the natural environment.

P&G Principles

- Purpose and Scope
- Federal Objective
- State and Local Concerns
- International Concerns
- Alternative Plans
- Plan Selection
- Accounts
- Discount Rate
- Period of Analysis
- Risk and Uncertainty
- Cost Allocation
- Planning Guidelines

WRDA 2007: Changing National Planning Policy for Water Resources

- Section 2031(a): Water resource projects should reflect national priorities, encourage economic development and protect the environment by:
  - maximizing sustainable economic development,
  - avoiding unwise use of floodplains & flood prone areas and
  - protecting and restoring the functions of natural systems and
  - Considering Monetary and Non-Monetary benefits

WRDA 2007 Changes (cont)

- **Sec 2031(b)(3). Ensure changes addre**
  - risk and uncertainty analysis,
  - public safety in plan formulation,
  - value of low-income communities & nonstructu approaches to water resources development,
  - interaction on a region or watershed basis,
  - Integrative and adaptive management and
  - project justification by public benefits.

Challenge of WRDA 2007

- Monetary vs. non-monetary benefits and impacts and the resulting trade-off
- Watershed needs vs. site-specific needs
- Nonstructural considerations and the avoidance of disproportionate impacts on low income and minority populations
- Multiple objective approaches to development of water resources.

Purpose of NEPA

"establishes action forcing provisions to promote the general welfare and create conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill social and economic needs of present and future generations"

NEPA AND THE P&G
Differences and Similarities

NEPA Concepts	P & G Principles
Purpose and Need	Purpose & Scope
Major Federal Action	Federal Objective
Public and Agency Review	State, and Local Concerns
	International Concerns
Alternative Plans	Alternative Plans
Preferred Plan Selection	Plan Selection
Effects Analysis	Accounts: NED, EQ, RED, OSE
Cost Benefit Analysis	Discount Rate

NEPA AND THE P&G
Differences and Similarities

NEPA Concepts	P & G Principles
Incomplete, Unavailable Information	Risk and Uncertainty
CEQ Procedures for Implementation	WRC Planning Guidelines
Effective Date	Effective Date
Affected environment	Inventory and forecasting
Alternatives	Alternative plans
Consequences, Effects, Impacts	Effects

NEPA AND THE P&G
Differences and Similarities

NEPA Concepts	P & G Concepts
Environmental consequences	Evaluation
Mitigation	Mitigation
No action Plan	Without project condition
Purpose and need	Problems and opportunities
Public involvement	Public participation
Review and consultation	Review and consultation
Scoping	Scoping
Significant	Significant
Human environment	Accounts: NED, EQ, RED, OSE

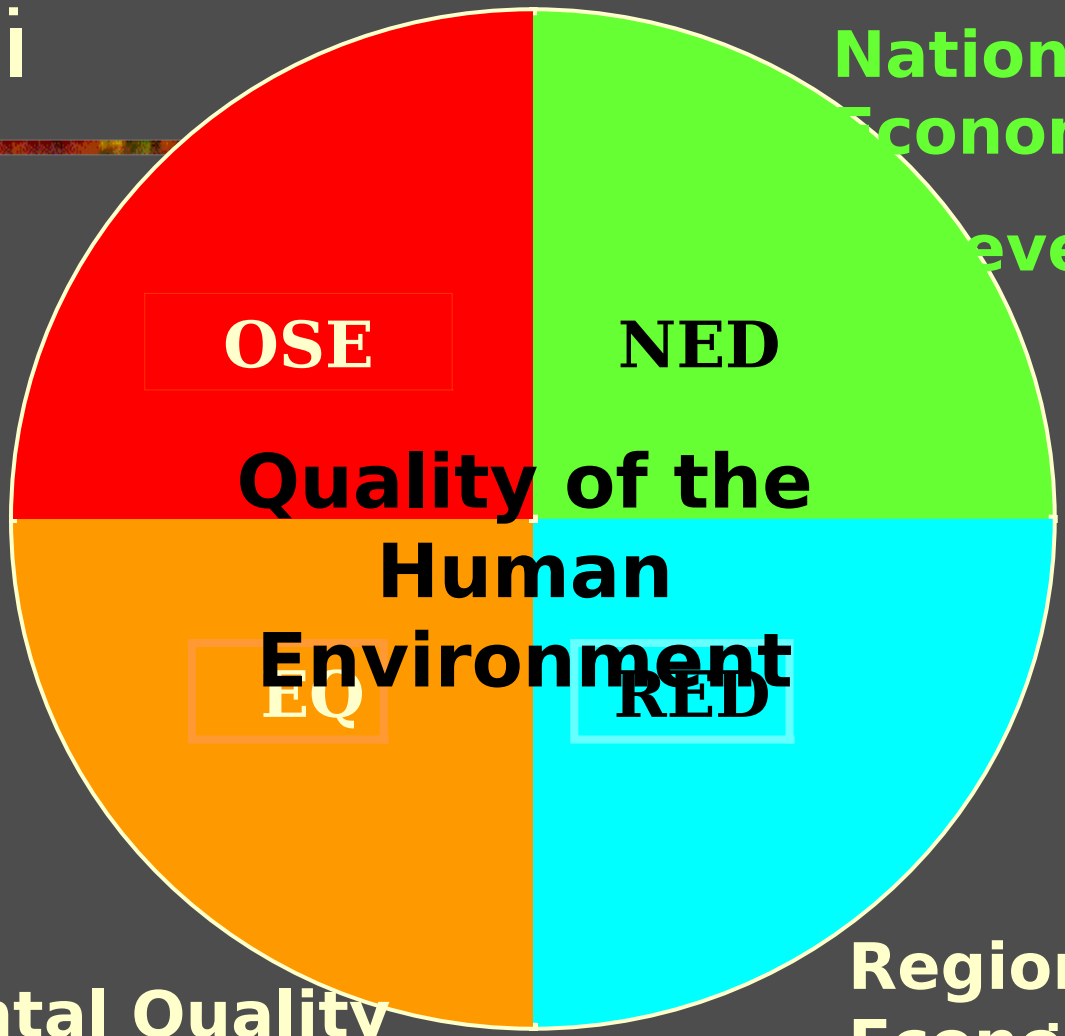
NEPA

Quality of the Human Environment

P&G Accounts

Other Social Effects

National Economic Development



Environmental Quality

Regional Economic Development

In Summary NEPA is Planning...

NEPA Chapters	P & G Planning Process Steps
Cover Sheet	None
Summary	None * (New Summary EC 405)
Table of Contents	None
Purpose and Need for Action	Problems and opportunities
Alternatives including proposed action	Formulation and Comparison of Alternatives
Affected Environment	Inventory and Forecast

NEPA is Planning (cont...)

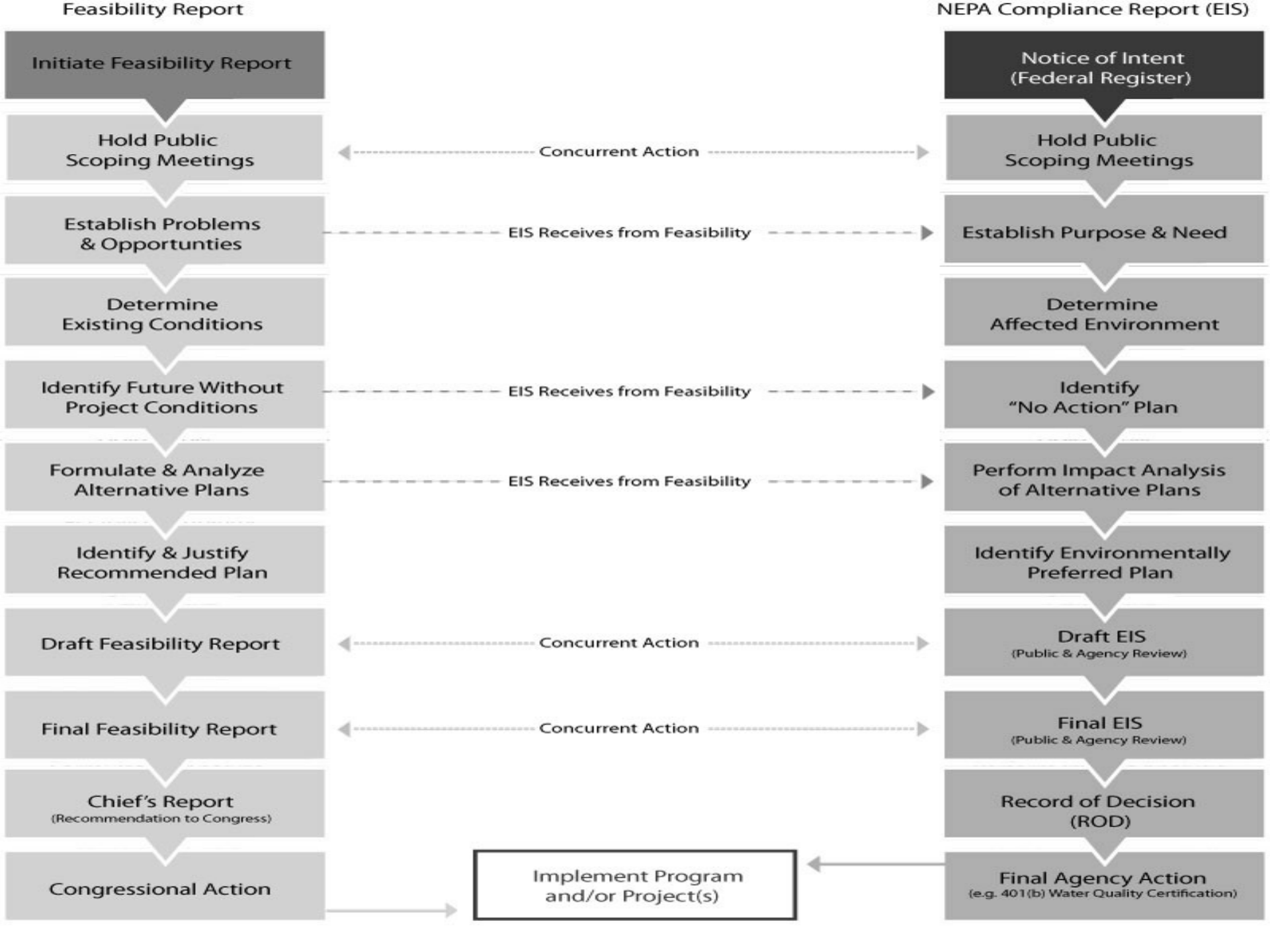
NEPA Chapters	P & G Planning Process Steps
Environmental Consequences	Evaluation
List of Prepares	None
List of Agencies	None
Index	None
Appendices	None

In comparing the NEPA Regulations and the P&G…

- Both cover essentially the same set of ideas.
- NEPA's EIS format and the P&G planning process have essentially the same requirements.
- NEPA and Corps Reports may be combined or integrated (ER 1105–2–60)
- NEPA covers all Federal actions, P&G covers water resources actions specifically

In comparing the NEPA Regulations and the P&G…

- Both recognize the repetitive (iterative) nature of the decision making process.
- Would we plan differently if either the NEPA regulations or the P&G were eliminated?
- No, answer is comply with one and generally you meet the requirements of the other.


Feasibility Report
NEPA Compliance Report (EIS)
Initiate Feasibility Report
Notice of Intent (Federal Register)
Hold Public Scoping Meetings
Concurrent Action
Hold Public Scoping Meetings
Establish Problems & Opportunties
EIS Receives from Feasibility
Establish Purpose & Need
Determine Existing Conditions
Determine Affected Environment
Identify Future Without Project Conditions
EIS Receives from Feasibility
Identify "No Action" Plan
Formulate & Analyze Alternative Plans
EIS Receives from Feasibility
Perform Impact Analysis of Alternative Plans
Identify & Justify Recommended Plan
Identify Environmentally Preferred Plan
Draft Feasibility Report
Concurrent Action
Draft EIS
(Public & Agency Review)
Final Feasibility Report
Concurrent Action
Final EIS
(Public & Agency Review)
Chief's Report
(Recommendation to Congress)
Record of Decision (ROD)
Congressional Action
Implement Program and/or Project(s)
Final Agency Action
(e.g. 401(b) Water Quality Certification)

Take Away Points:

- The planning process occurs i
  In steps- the steps are iterative
- Criteria guide decisions made in the process.
- The problem-solving and decision making requirements of the NEPA regulations and the P&G are essentially the same.
- Trust the process.